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steamship *Cyprian Prince*, British, for New York. February 25, steamship *Dulcie*, British, for Mobile. February 26, steamship *Glenroy*, British, for New Orleans.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

#### CANARY ISLANDS.

##### *Leprosy at Teneriffe and Grand Canary.*

##### *Report on leprosy at Teneriffe.*

SIR: With the assistance of physicians and from personal investigation and knowledge, I herewith forward this report on leprosy in Teneriffe, to which I attach also the report of Peter Swanston, United States consular agent at Grand Canary.

There are on the island of Teneriffe 3 distinct classes of leprosy, namely, *lepra arabum*, *lepra elephantiasis* (leontiasis), *lepra tuberculosis*. They are marked externally by discolored patches and nodules on the skin. The chief premonitory symptoms are unaccountable lassitude and mental depression, pains in the limbs and joints, cold and hot fits, loss of appetite and nausea. This stage of the disease is followed by the "periodically eruptive stage," during which blotches on the skin come and go, and sooner or later congestions, eruptions, and exudations leave either permanent spots, brown or blanched, which are often without feeling, or they leave nodules.

The disease diverges into 2 main varieties—the "spotted" (*lepra maculosa*) and the "nodular" (*lepra tuberculosa*). The 2 kinds are found here side by side, sometimes in the same person. When the blanched spots appear it is called "*L maculosa alba*," or white leprosy. These spots are very apt to have bullæ forming on them, their periodical eruption being attended with fever. The nodules generally arise also in the situation of old blotches. They are first small scattered points, but they grow in size to a hazel nut or a walnut.

While the maculæ of leprosy may occur in any part, the nodules are most apt to form on the face (ears, lips, cheeks, brows, or nose), causing thickening of all the features, but they often occur on the hands and feet, and sometimes on the whole body.

Maculæ, especially on the limbs, are liable to ulcerations, followed by incrustations. Deep ulceration occurs at the joints of the fingers and toes, which may drop off, joint for joint, leaving a well-healed stump. Certain mucous membranes thicken, become nodulated and ulcerated, viz, the conjunctiva cornea (causing *paunus leprosus*) and the lining of the mouth, nose, throat, and larynx (causing hoarseness). The peripheral nerves are the subject of thickenings and degenerations like those of the skin.

Leprosy has been claimed as one of the diseases caused by parasites. The essential cause of leprosy is unknown. It is somewhat endemic among people here, on account of their eating a good deal of fish (often putrid) and their general uncleanness.

As being contagious it is generally discredited here, but in my opinion it is very infectious. In former years Spain had established a colony at Grand Canary for lepers. They were housed there, but had perfect liberty to wander about with the restriction that they must sleep at the houses built for them. In course of time this law became a dead letter, and gradually they spread over the different islands.

In the island of Teneriffe there are at present about 200 lepers. At

the town of Santa Cruz de Teneriffe, the capital, there are, from personal knowledge, 22 lepers, namely, 15 men and 7 females; also some children, the offsprings of several marriages of these unfortunates. They are given a place about fifteen minutes from the city hall, where they live, which is called Barranco Santo. There are also living at the same place about 200 people besides, nearly all beggars. They are not supported by the town inhabitants or the Government, but are allowed to wander the roads in and all over the town, which they do, begging. You meet them at all times of day in town or road, asking alms and exposing their limbs. Many have no fingers or toes, and they hobble along, and a more pitiable sight is hardly imaginable.

Officially it is not recognized that leprosy exists on these islands, and it is classed as a scrofulous or skin disease.

Several of the physicians to whom I am indebted for their assistance in this report, claim that the dryness of the atmosphere, also the intense heat here at times, has a great deal to do with the disease not being more prevailing and catching.

The provincial government at Teneriffe has lately taken up the subject, and a large building about 2 miles out of town, that was started during the war in 1898, is now finished to congregate them there. The building has 2 separate wings. In one they are going to put all the insane patients, and in the other all those afflicted with leprosy.

I herewith attach report of the United States consulate agent, Peter Swanston, at Las Palmas, Grand Canary.

My agent, M. Yanes, esq., at La Palma, informs me that there is no leprosy that he knows of in his district.

Respectfully,

SOLOMON BERLINER,  
*United States Consul, Teneriffe.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Report on leprosy on Grand Canary Island.*

"LAS PALMAS, February 1, 1901.

"SIR: I have the honor to report for your information that the disease of leprosy in the island of Grand Canary is decidedly decreasing. It is chiefly found in the extreme south of the island, and in the driest parts, where there is little irrigation water.

"The diet of the natives of these parts largely consists of dried salted fish, and "gofio" (Indian corn meal), and to this some attribute the disease, or tendency thereto; it is certainly not in a virulent form, and is not believed by the natives to be contagious.

"In Las Palmas, however, there is the lepers' hospital, a large old dominican convent, in the old part of the town, turned into the lepers' hospital in 1843. There are about 50 patients; they are not allowed out, but can take air and exercise in the large "patios" or courtyards. They are not allowed to marry.

"The hospital gets a small government grant and is supported by the Sisters of Mercy and contributions.

"There are a few families infected with the disease, in a more or less serious form, living in their own houses, some in the town of Las Palmas.

"In the country districts occasionally one meets workingmen of decidedly leprous appearance. It is considered by the natives a bad form of

venereal disease and is not likely to increase. Perhaps in the whole island there may be about 100 cases of what is here called "elephantiasis."

"Respectfully,  
P. SWANSTON,  
*United States Consular Agent, Grand Canary.*  
"Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE."

## CHINA.

*Report from Hongkong.*

HONGKONG, CHINA, *February 18, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection work at this station for the week ended February 16, 1901:

The usual disinfection work was done, and all shipping orders containing food products were viséed and signed.

Three cases of plague and 1 of smallpox occurred during the week, all resulting in death.

Respectfully,  
JOHN W. KERR,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*  
The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure.]

*Report of vessels inspected at Hongkong, China, week ended February 16, 1901.*

Date.	Name of vessel.	Destination.	Crew.	Passengers.		Re-jected.
				Cabin.	Steer-age.	
Feb. 10	Br. str. Loong Sang (a).....	Manila, P. I.....	67	8	2	3
Feb. 13	Am. str. Garonne (b).....	do.....	86	18	0	0
Do.....	Br. str. Guen Sang (a).....	do.....	70	16	18	0
Feb. 14	Am. str. City of Peking (a).....	San Francisco, Cal.....	134	6	11	0
Feb. 15	Am. str. Canton (c).....	Manila, P. I.....	12	0	0	0
Do.....	Br. str. Esmeralda (d).....	do.....	55	13	17	0
Feb. 16	U. S. S. Albany (d).....	do.....	342	0	0	0

a Asiatic crew and steerage passengers bathed and effects disinfected by steam.

b European crews.

c Asiatic crew bathed and body clothing disinfected by steam.

d Issued on certificate of medical officer.

## CUBA.

*Reports from Cienfuegos, Casilda, and Santa Cruz del Sur.*

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *March 18, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the district under my command for the week ended March 16, 1901: Fifteen deaths have occurred in this city, the following list showing the causes of death: Bright's disease, 2; tuberculosis, 2; sclerosis, arterial, 2; endocarditis, 1; pernicious fever, 1; pneumonia, 1; intestinal colic, 1; paludic fever, 1; atelectasis, 1; insufficiency, aortic, 1; peritonitis, 1; concussion of brain, 1. Three deaths occurred in the civil hospital. Death rate, 19.55.

Fifteen vessels entered, were inspected and passed; 25 vessels received bills of health for other ports; 79 health certificates issued outgoing passengers; 94 pieces of baggage inspected and passed for outgoing pas-